H. J. Carter, in his paper, "Description of *Labaria hemisphærica*, Gray, a new Species of Hexactinellid Sponge, with Observations on it and the Sarcohexactinellid Sponges generally," Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. xi. p. 278, says "Loc. unknown, from Singapore."

I beg to state that I obtained these sponges (as noticed in my letter to Dr. Gray from Singapore) from the reefs in the sea near the village Talisay, on the island of Cebu, Philippine Islands, in March 1872, on the same spot as the other new sponges obtained by me there and described by Dr. Gray in 'Annals,' x. p. 110, 1872, viz. *Meyerina claviformis*, *Crateromorpha Meyeri*, and *Rossella philippinensis*.

The sponges from these reefs, in the straits between the island of Cebu, some small islets near it, and the island of Bohol, are best to be got in the months March till August (the most favourable month is May) at full moon, when the current in the straits is very strong. The fishers drive with the current and draw behind them in their little boats long lines with small hooks constructed for the purpose. Therefore a little hole can be seen in nearly all specimens of *Euplectella aspergillum* and others, where the hook has destroyed the substance of the sponge. Some species are only found in great depths, 50 fathoms for instance; and only a few fishermen are skilful enough for sponge-fishing.

11 Wallfischgasse, Vienna,
Nov. 14, 1873.

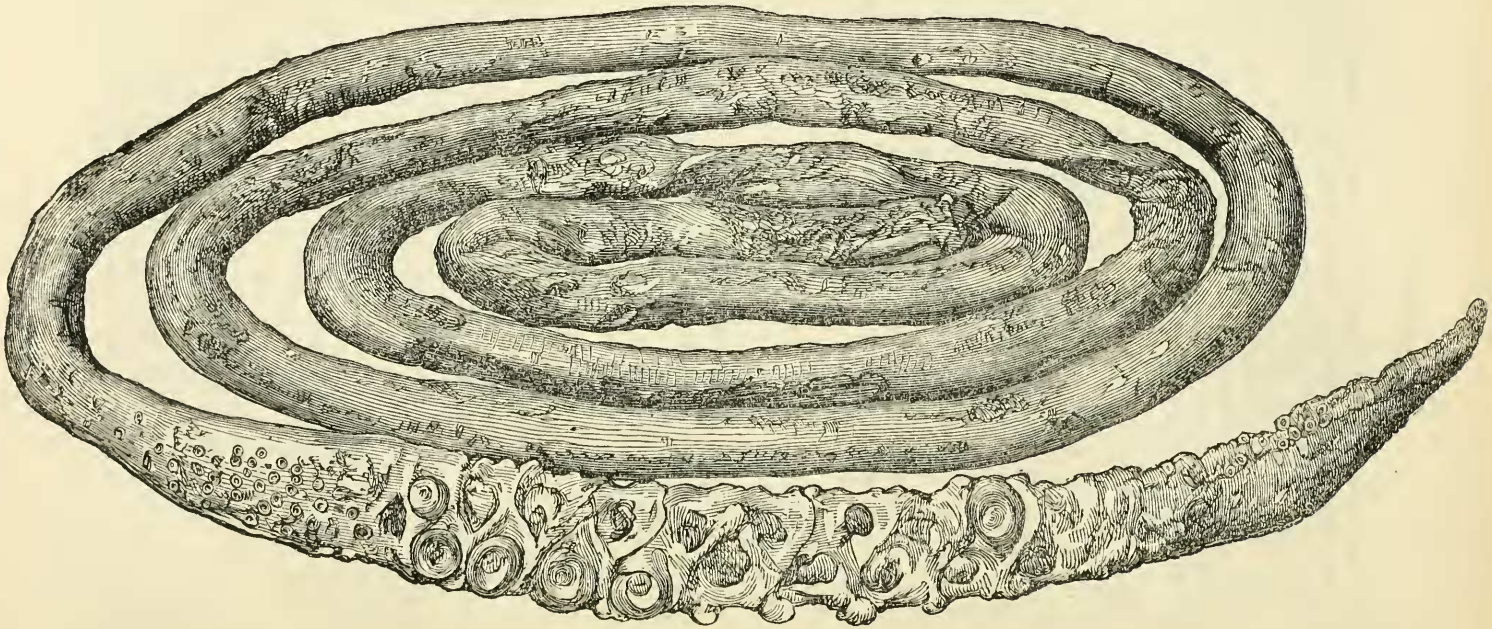
### *Gigantic Cuttlefishes in Newfoundland.*

As the question of the existence of Cephalopoda of large size may still be regarded as to a certain extent open to doubt, the following letter from the Rev. M. Harvey of St. John's, Newfoundland, to Principal Dawson possesses considerable interest.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
Nov. 12, 1873.

My dear Doctor,—I take the liberty of bringing under your notice some account of a gigantic cuttlefish which was seen a few days ago in Conception Bay. The circumstances under which it was seen were as follows:—Two fishermen were out in a small punt, on October 26, off Portugal Cove, Conception Bay, about 9 miles from St. John's. Observing some object floating on the water at a short distance, they rowed towards it, supposing it to be a large sail or the *débris* of a wreck. On reaching it, one of the men struck it with his "gaff," when immediately it showed signs of life, reared a parrot-like beak, which they declare was "as big as a six-gallon keg," with which it struck the bottom of the boat violently. It then shot out from about its head two huge livid arms and began to twine them round the boat. One of the men seized a small axe and severed both arms as they lay over the gunwale of the boat, whereupon the fish moved off and ejected an immense quantity of inky fluid, which darkened the water for two or three hundred yards. The men saw it for a short time afterwards, and observed its tail

*Tentacle of a gigantic Cephalopod from Newfoundland.* (About one fourth natural size.)



in the air, which they declare was 10 feet across. They estimate the body to have been 60 feet in length, 5 feet in diameter, of the same shape and colour as the common squid; and they observed that it moved in the same way as the squid, both backwards and forwards.

One of the arms which they brought ashore was unfortunately destroyed, as they were ignorant of its importance; but the clergyman of the village assures me it was 10 inches in diameter and 6 feet in length. The other arm was brought to St. John's, but not before 6 feet of it were destroyed. Fortunately I heard of it, and took measures to have it preserved. Mr. Murray (of the Geological Survey) and I afterwards examined it carefully, had it photographed, and immersed in alcohol; it is now in our Museum. It measured 19 feet, is of a pale pink colour, entirely cartilaginous, tough and pliant as leather, and very strong. It is but $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference, except towards the extremity, where it broadens like an oar to 6 inches in circumference, and then tapers to a pretty fine point. The under surface of the extremity is covered with suckers to the very point. At the extreme end there is a cluster of small suckers, with fine sharp teeth round their edges, and having a membrane stretched across each. Of these there are about seventy. Then come two rows of very large suckers, the movable disk of each $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, the cartilaginous ring not being denticulated. These are twenty-four in number. After these there is another group of suckers, with denticulated edges (similar to the first), and about fifty in number. Along the under surface about forty more small suckers are distributed at intervals, making in all about 180 suckers on the arm.

The men estimate that they left about 10 feet of the arm attached to the body of the fish, so that its original length must have been 35 feet.

A clergyman here assures me that when he resided at Lamaline, on the southern coast, in the winter of 1870, the bodies of two cuttles were cast ashore, measuring 40 and 45 feet respectively.

More than once we have had accounts of gigantic cuttles cast ashore in different localities; but not until now have any portions of them been preserved.

By this mail I send you a photograph of the arm, it is one fourth the original in size. You will readily see the suckers at the extremity of the arm. The disks of several of the larger ones have been torn off by carelessness on the part of the captors; a few of them, however, are perfect; and the smaller ones are not injured. I shall send you also, by this mail, three or four of these suckers which I cut off, the smallest being from the very tip of the extremity and not much larger than a pin's head.

I shall be glad to hear your opinion of this fish at your earliest convenience.

It is a great pity one arm was destroyed; and it is still more to be regretted that we did not get the head of the monster.

Yours very sincerely,

M. Harvey.

The 'Field' of the 13th of December contains a notice of the occurrence described by Mr. Harvey, communicated by Mr. T. G. B. Lloyd, who received his information from Mr. A. Murray, Provincial Geological Surveyor of Newfoundland. Mr. Lloyd very justly suggests that the statement of the width of the animal is more likely to be approximately correct than that of its length, which seems to be excessive; and he is probably right in assuming that the length of the body of the animal was about 25 feet. The photograph sent by Mr. Murray represents one of the long tentacles of a decapod Cephalopod, probably a Calamary. A woodcut taken from it is given by Mr. Lloyd; and by the kindness of the Editor of the 'Field' we are enabled to reproduce this figure.

*New Species of Shells.* By F. P. Marrat.

*Nassa elongata*, Marrat.

*N.* testa elongato-conica, fulva, fascia pallida cincta, longitudinaliter costata transversimque sulcata; anfractibus sulcis æquidistantibus, ultimo basi rugoso; sutura tuberculis moniliformibus ornata; apertura ovata; columella plicata; labio callo tenui expanso tecto, labro margine serrato, intus lirato.

*Hab.* China seas.

*Nassa lirata*, Marrat.

*N.* testa ovata, fusca, fascia transversa albida cincta, longitudinaliter subcostata; costis superne nodosis, transversim striata; anfractu ultimo transversim sulcato; epidermide pallide fusca tecta; apertura parviuscula; labio cum callo circumscripto tecto, basi granuloso; canale subrecurvo; labro extus incrassato, intus valde lirato.

*Hab.* Philippines.

This shell has been long known in London among the dealers; and they all consider it to be new.

*Nassa lucida*, Marrat.

*N.* testa ovato-conica, albida, polita, longitudinaliter valde plicata, plicis subdistantibus; apertura ovata; columella lævi, infra fere biplicata; labro extus incrassato, intus dentato-lirato.

*Hab.* Keelings Island.

This is the most Scalaria-like species in the whole genus, the ribs being thick, white, and highly polished.

The following species of *Nassa* may stand thus:—

*Nassa Kraussiana*, Dkr.

*N. orbiculata*, A. Ad.

*Nassa lurida*, Gould.

*N. dispar*, A. Ad.